

See you, Digital Cowboy:

Exploring online subcultures in the Postmodern world



An essay

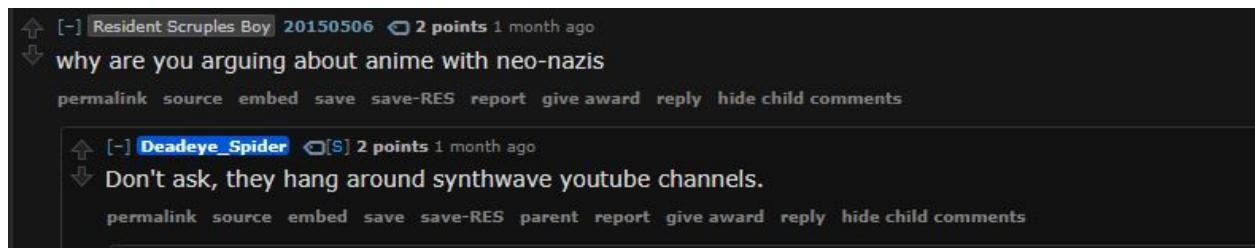
In the modern world, we seem to assume that the premise of tribalism is something archaic and primitive and that we somehow have transcended them. However, more recently when people look at the word tribalism, subtle images of the Alt-Right and Anti-Fa appear.

The word Internet is short for Interconnected Networks, we have created a vast digitized landscape in which information from trivial to substantial is accumulating every second and preserved forever. Never fading, always accessible.

With all this information and access to billions of people and their ideas around the world, we now can see the birth and rise of cultures that transcend physical geography. A white teenager from Arkansas can now be heavily influenced by Hip-Hop culture in the west coast to a black kid living in Paris can be obsessed with anime and manga.

Tying all of this in, with so much information creates so much untested truths spun by many different interests and mindsets ultimately creates a rhetoric to avoid conflict and to protect each other. Everyone withdraws into their own small gated communities, afraid of a larger forum. They reinforce their own “truths” suits them and thus reinforcing and creating their own version of their reality. No “truths” or ideas clash or mesh between these communities. No one is invalidated however no one is right.

Reeling back, while it may seem to be pretentious to use the word Postmodern, it is the best description to what is happening: Postmodern Tribalism. The Postmodern claim is seemingly becoming true that reality is accepted truth. The reality of a teenage furry who goes to anime cons differ from the reality of a Neo-Nazi obsessed with the coming of the end of Western Democracy. These realities greatly both differ from the porn-obsessed to the Youtube vlogger/Twitch Streamer.



From a Reddit comment thread.

Discord is a software released in 2015, a platform designed for the video game community that specializes in text, image, and audio communication between users in a chat channel. With the client's support of anonymity and privacy however, has transformed Discord into something beyond the developer's intent.

With that being said, I'm looking at my Discord feed right now and all the groups I have a "membership" in. Some are easy to access into while others need verification of phone and sometimes a vetting and interview process by the moderators. Almost every hobby, every interests, every community, every subculture has a Discord channel. If there is a subreddit, there is most likely a Discord channel they've created to accompany it. This extends to hobbies like video games like Dota 2/For Honor to lifestyles such as Crossfit/Nootropics to political parties like Communism/Fascism. They all gather, they all share memes, they'll perhaps talk about movies or video games but most importantly, they'll being reaffirmed by the many others who share their point of view.

The technology that we have today, it is evident that we are still in the beginning stages of understanding and learning it. Like fire, when introduced to Mankind, it is expectant that we will burn ourselves at first when learning its brilliance.

We are simulating experiences in the digital landscape. The concepts of Tribalism is now first produced on the internet, as the individual feels more isolated from his surroundings. We feel as though we are in a world where no one truly understands us and the way we think until we saddle up, turn on our laptops and discover that there is a whole entire community around the world that thinks just like you. Billions of people live on earth and these particular hundreds if not thousands think just like you.

“People don’t have ideas, ideas have people.” - Carl Jung

And it is to this belief that I hold that religion and language (storytelling) was primitive man’s attempt at mapping out the abstract subconscious of the world. They were trying to map out ideas and concepts themselves and thus began the birth of Gods. To the Greeks; the Gods were emotions and that they were the playthings of the Gods who had their own plans/intentions beyond their understanding. Emotions were Gods because they were abstract concepts and that it existed in all humans. It existed in me and you and it can’t be destroyed, that’s why they are Gods. And to be possessed by an emotion was to be possessed by a God. Ares was the emotion of Anger and Aphrodite was the emotion of Love and Lust. And religion itself was to be their own attempt at extremely primitive psychology. For example, Aphrodite is wed to Hephaestus because Love is the thing that drives Creation. However, Aphrodite also has an affair with Ares and produces a son together, Eros/Cupid and it is because Love and Hate produce the Erotic; at least to the Greeks...of course.

I believe that the Internet is modern man's best attempt at mapping out the abstract cosmology of ideas. When I say "cult" or "tribe" it is less so in a negative connotation but simply stating what those words originally meant. I will attempt to use the same logic towards the internet. Pornography, as with many people, I am a huge fan of. But I also believe Pornography has the possibility of being a destructive and unhealthy force that can ruin people to an unhealthy addiction. Pornography is the Pagan ideal. As I stated before, anything that has ever been thought of exists no matter how obscure and there is always a community of other people who share the same idea. The most evident and obvious of this is Porn. Porn throughout history has been perhaps humans greatest innovator. Porn is art and great art is porn. As Camille Paglia puts it,

"The vulgar contortionism of pornography is the serpentine tangle of Medusan nature. Pornography is human imagination in tense theatrical action; its violations are a protest against the violations of our freedom by nature...Far from poisoning the mind, pornography shows the deepest truth about sexuality, stripped of romantic veneer."

From the conception of the Internet to VR headsets, even youtube borrowed its format and foundations from porn sites. Pornography has always been the pioneers of tomorrow. It comes from the spirit of the Pagan eye. How I see it is that modern Porn is a succubus turned Goddess. There is porn-addicted men who have devoted themselves to Porn and her daughters (fetishes). They devote their money and their time to her. Whoever controls your time, controls your mind.

Returning back to the idea of postmodern tribalism, you can also observe that living today and reality today feels chaotic. Reality is agreed upon truth and with the dawn of the internet, everyone is living in a different reality. The reality of a Joe Rogan acolyte who listens to Jordan Peterson and Sam Harris is an extremely different reality of that of a furry that goes to anime

conventions to a reality of a Redditor whose favorite movies are Deadpool and 500 Days of Summer. These realities are far different in every possible way to a Saudi Arabian woman and that of a Japanese Hikikomori recluse.

I believe that we have entered this line of thinking, especially with contemporary college academics because of the popularity of Postmodernism and French Deconstructionism popularized by figures such as Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault.

The Alchemists had two principles/components to their philosophy. **Solve et Coagula**. Solve was essentially analysis. It was to take things apart to see how they worked. Coagula was synthesis, it was trying to put back the disassembled pieces back together so they worked more efficiently. Postmodernism and deconstructivism is Solve. Perhaps it is time for a little more Coagula. Deconstructing everything, perhaps we should be starting to think about putting everything back together.

“Yee-haw”